Passports offices in the country

2712. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passport offices in the country;

(b) whether there is any proposal to increase their number and also to modernise them; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) There are 28 Passport Offices in the country. A list is placed on the table of the House at statement (*see* below).

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to establish new Passport Offices in Dehradun (Uttaranchal), Ranchi (Jarkhand), Raipur (Chhatisgarh), Shimla (Himachal Pradesh) and Surat (Gujarat). The □ecentralizat of passport services is a ccontinuous process and the measures taken by the Government in the recent past arc: □ecentralizatio of processing procedures, simplification of passport and miscellaneous services forms, □ecentralization of passport services to enable submission at the district level, introduction of machine writing of passports, introduction of the tele-enquiry system, launch of the Central Passport Organsiation (CPO) web-site and scanning of index cards and old records, etc. Machine printing of passports has already been introduced in six Passport Offices. Online registration services have been introduced in Passport Offices at Bangalore & Chennai.

Statement

List of Passport offices in India

S. No.	Name of RPO/PO
1.	Ahmedabad
2.	Bangalore
3.	Barcilly
4.	Bhopal
5.	Bhubaneshwar
6.	Kolkatta
7.	Chandigarh

S. No.	Name of RPO/PO
8.	Chennai
9.	Cochin
10.	Delhi
11.	Ghaziabad
12.	Guwahati
13.	Hyderabad
14.	Jaipur
15.	Jalandhar
16.	Jammu
17.	Kozhikode
18.	Lucknow
19.	Mumbai
20.	Nagpur
21.	Panaji
22.	Patna
23.	Pune
24.	Srinagar
25.	Thane
26.	Trichy
27.	rivandrum
28.	Visakhapatnam

Pakistan's appeal to normalise relations

2713. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has appealed to India to break barriers and resume flight operation, Samjhauta Express, peace process and reduce army build-up at the borders;

(b) whether Pakistan of late has offered to normalise their relations with India before taking up Kashmir issue as appearing in the Press Media; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Pakistani leaders have frequently resorted to